Converting FGDC Metadata from GIS Infobase to ArcCatalog
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Jeanne Keyes

Most field units in Region 6 and the REO (Regional Ecosystem Office) are using the metadata management tool, GIS Infobase, in order to update, report, and publish metadata. This tool was developed by Tom Erkert, and has been adopted by units for it's ease of use and functionality.

ESRI's new Arc Catalog tool provides an industry standard to managing metadata. The functionality for managing metadata is now built into the ESRI suite of tools.

The REO has been providing Infobase support, and has volunteered to pilot the conversion process to ArcCatalog. The following document outlines the steps needed for converting FGDC (Federal Geographic Data Committee) formated metadata from GIS Infobase to ArcCatalog for coverages, shapefiles, raster datasets etc.

In GIS Infobase:

1. Create FGDC Format metadata by clicking on the "Internet Metadata and Data Export". See pages 49 - 54 in the User's guide for details.

2. Make sure the correct paths are set for HTML and Oracle Data export directory and the coverage export directory.

3. Check the box to produce FGDC Metadata in addition to Quick Reference format.

4. Select the covers you wish to create FGDC metadata.

5. Select the data export and publication type options.

6. Click "OK". FGDC metadata for the selected covers should now be available in the gisib/internet/fgdc directory.   Resolve all errors mentioned in the FGDC error log. After resolving the errors in the FGDC error log, the metadata is now FGDC compliant and can be posted to a NSDI Clearinghouse if desired.

6. GIS Infobase creates two formats: SGML and text. Both can be used to import the metadata into ArcCatalog. There doesn't seem to be any difference in speed or process when importing one format or the other.

In ArcCatalog:

1. Navigate to the cover or file to assign metadata. Click the metadata tab. Click the "import metadata" button. Browse to the location where the SGML or text file is located.

Select the format for the file. Then click "OK".

The new information should now be available to the file in ArcCatalog. A detailed description of how attributes, field widths, shapefiles, raster data etc. are converted into ArcCatalog may be obtained at: http://arconline.esri.com under ArcGIS Desktop/Technical papers.

2. The procedures described above is a "manual" method that may be suitable for a few files at a time. This process could be automated with VBA.

GIS Infobase identifies metadata and attribute files by the Identification number of the cover in the database. Depending on the number of files you are converting, you may want to rename the files based on the cover name. A loop could be set up to import data into ArcCatalog using this ID number or cover name. Check the ArcCatalog Help for details in creating custom commands in VBA.